

## ON THE STATUS OF THE PHYLUM-NAME, AND OTHER NAMES, OF THE VESTIMENTIFERAN TUBE WORMS

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*Abstract.*—Two phylum-names have been proposed for the same group of animals, the vestimentiferan tube worms of hydrothermal vents and elsewhere. Priority for the phylum-name Vestimentifera Jones, as well as for the classes Axonobranchia Jones and Basibranchia Jones and the orders Riftiida Jones and Lamellibrachiida Jones, is established; these are the senior synonyms for these taxa.

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It has come to my attention that there exists a possibility of confusion concerning the valid name of the phylum containing tube worms of the genera *Lamellibrachia*, *Riftia*, *Escarpia*, *Tevnia*, *Oasisia* and *Ridgeia*.

The phylum Vestimentifera was proposed in a publication dated 30 December 1985 and was available for distribution on that date (Jones 1985). The phylum includes: the class Axonobranchia with the single order Riftiida and the single family Riftiidae, containing the genus *Riftia*, only; and the class Basibranchia with two orders, Lamellibrachiida (with two families, Lamellibrachiidae and Escarpiidae, each monogeneric, with *Lamellibrachia* and *Escarpia*, respectively), and Tevniida (with two families, Tevniidae, with the genera *Tevnia* and *Oasisia*, and Ridgeiidae, with the single genus *Ridgeia*).

The phylum Mesoneurophora was proposed in a publication that bears the date "1985" (Mañé-Garzón and Montero "1985"). The phylum includes a single class, Vestimentifera, with two orders, Lamellibrachida (with the single genus *Lamellibrachia*, with the family Lamellibrachiidae implied) and Ptyllida (with the single genus *Riftia*, with the family Riftiidae implied). This was something of a surprise to me since I had discussed my intent to propose a new

phylum for these tube worms during "... un franco y positivo intercambio de ideas" (Mañé-Garzón and Montero "1985":27), when one of the authors visited me in my laboratory on 24 August 1985, my paper being "in press" (Jones 1985).

The two dates involved here suggest that there is a question of priority concerning the validity of the two sets of names of phylum, class, and order, for the date of the phylum Vestimentifera is quite late in the year.

On the back cover of the paper proposing the phylum Mesoneurophora there is printed "INZAURRALDE Prensa" and "Depósito Legal 215257/86." The final two figures of the number suggest that the paper may have been printed in 1986, in spite of the date inscribed, 1985.

Inquiries, by telephone, to INZAURRALDE Press, Montevideo, indicated that the paper was printed and available for distribution on or about 12 June 1986; a request for written confirmation of this date has not been answered as yet.

The number associated with "Depósito Legal," above, is assigned by the Biblioteca Nacional, Montevideo, to publications produced in Uruguay. In response to a request for details concerning the date of publication of the paper and of its availability, the Director of the Department of Public Ser-

vice of the National Library stated, in a letter, that the date of issue of this number was 19 March 1986 and that their records showed that the paper was available to readers at the Library in July 1986.

A letter to the Editor of the *Revista de Biología del Uruguay*, dated 6 October 1986, concerning the date of publication of the article in question, has gone unanswered; a similar letter to the authors of the paper, dated 26 February 1987, likewise, has gone unanswered.

It is evident from the comments from the National Library, Montevideo, that there is a priority of date for the publication of 30 December 1985 proposing the phylum Vestimentifera, along the classes and orders proposed with it.

Although it is acknowledged that the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1985) does not apply to taxa above the familial level (Article 1 (b) (4)), some guidance is available for the present case; application of Article 21 (c) of the Code indicates that the earliest date of publication of the Uruguayan paper considered here must be 31 December 1985.

In either case, then, the phylum Vestimentifera Jones, the classes Axonobranchia Jones and Basibranchia Jones and the orders Riftiida Jones and Lamellibrachiida Jones have priority, on the basis of date,

and the phylum Mesoneurophora Mañé-Garzón & Montero, the class Vestimentifera Mañé-Garzón & Montero and the orders Ptyllida Mañé-Garzón & Montero and Lamellibrachida Mañé-Garzón & Montero are their respective junior synonyms.

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#### Literature Cited

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